

Cholera infantum

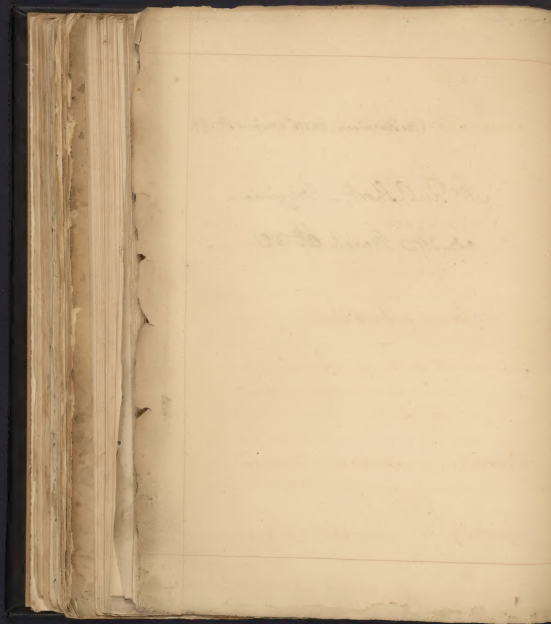
Case 23d.

No. 10

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An
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1871

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Cholera Infantum.

Of the history of Cholera Infantum, not much need be said: It has been so correctly pointed out by those who have written on the subject, and is so very uniform in its appearance, that it would be more than useless for me to quote the different authors who have illustrated its Character, in the respective Countries in which they practised. To avoid therefore useless details I shall confine myself to a few of those Authorities, who at the present day are, by general consent allowed to stand preminent. Cholera is derived from the greek word *χολη*, bile, and *πρωτοflux*, a genus of disease arranged by Cullen in the class Nervous, and

Chloris

Chloris is a name of a flower, and also of a person. In the latter sense, it is a name of a young woman, and is often used in poetry. In the former sense, it is a name of a flower, and is often used in poetry. The name Chloris is derived from the Greek word chloros, which means green. The name Chloris is also used in the Bible, where it is the name of a young woman who was married to a man named Sennacherib. The name Chloris is also used in the Bible, where it is the name of a young woman who was married to a man named Sennacherib.

and order Spasmodic. It might be expected that I should here for a while expatiate on the subject but as long experience is necessary to enable us to write with accuracy on any subject I shall content myself with a few observations. This disease is not confined to any particular Country: Every part of the vast Globe has on the contrary experienced its ravages. It is said by Authors to prevail most in the months of Autumn: but we sometimes meet with cases during the chilling blasts of winter. It is said to prevail mostly in crowded places as Hospitals, and other receptacles of fétid Air in most of the large towns of the United States. It is a disease principally of warm Climates, and it partakes of the remitting type of fever. This disease is aggravated by the heat of the weather, hence more Children are said to die in August, than in any other month. Children between one and two years of age, are

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are peculiarly liable to this disease. I shall not
be very minute in detailing the various symptoms
of Cholera Infantum, as they have been pointed out
by authors. In most instances Cholera Infantum
commences with a diarrhoea, which continues several
days without any other symptom of indisposition,
but frequently a violent vomiting, and purging,
and high fever precede it. The matter discharged from
the stomach and bowels is generally yellow or gray
the stools are sometimes slimy and bloody, without
any tincture of bile; worms are frequently discharged
I have seen thirty and forty, discharged in the course
of a few hours. Children in this stage of the disease
appear to suffer a good deal of pain, the pulse is
quick and weak the head usually warm, while the
extremities retain their natural heat. The head
is in many instances so much affected as to induce
delirium, an intense thirst attends every stage
of the disease through the whole course of the
disease the stools are frequently large, and extremely

solidly but in some instances they are without solid
ends, resemble drunks, and stupids.

Causes. they are various being, such as induced
with ether, direct, or indirect, or the influence
vicissitudes of weather alternating from heat to
cold, and particularly so when the climate here is
moist. In warm climates and seasons, after extreme
hot and dry weather a fall of rain cooling the
atmosphere seems well calculated to bring on this disease,
and it is very probable that

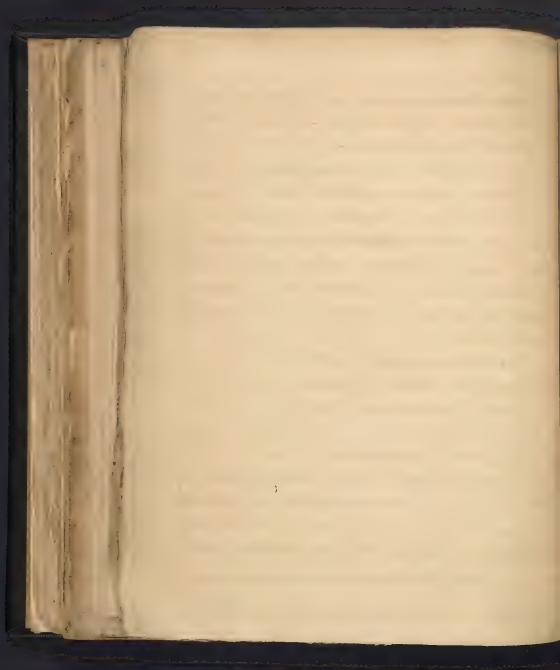
an obtruded perspiration may have also a share in
this, the we frequently observe the disease to appear when
we change in the temperature of the air nor any great
cooling of colds has been observed. The introduction of parents
to change their Childrens clothing and to adapt it to the
vicissitudes of weather is said to lay the foundation for
Cholera Infantum. Stimulation may act as an exciting
cause, hence we perceive this disease to be more violent
at that age than at any other. This disease is brought
into action by improper articles in diet, clothing &c. The



The fruits of the season are a most prolific source
of this disease. Children under such circumstances
should be wholly removed from all kinds of fruit, nothing
in any person has a tendency so much to produce
this disease as the great indulgence in sweet
meats. I have seen it brought on repeatedly by eating
sugar grapes at Colera. Mollusks have been suspected as
being a source of this disease. It is worthy notice
that Cholera Infantum is brought on by the heat and
indulgence in all our large Cities during the summer
months.

• Appearance on Dissection.

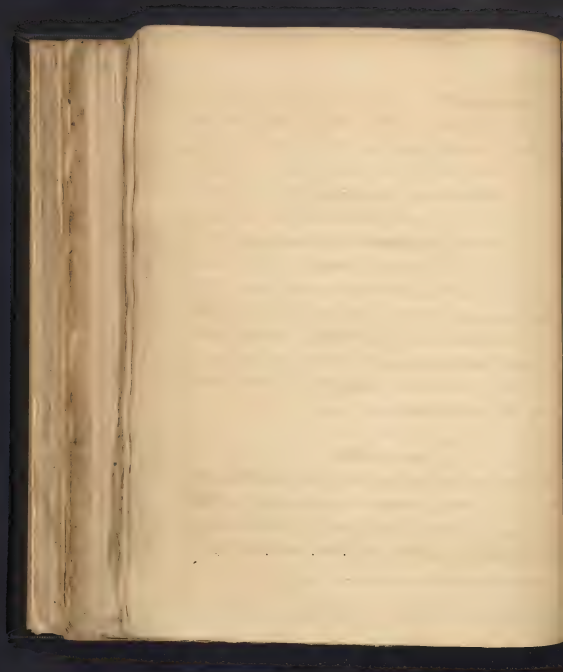
The appearances which the dissection of those who
suffered of this disease, present to us, are the
following. Inflammation, may be traced through
the whole tract of the Alimentum Crassum, but more
particularly in the mucous membrane, that all
from the pharynx to the anus are thus coated, the stomach
and all the intestines, but more so in the descending,
and lower the Sigmoides, the large intestines much,



collected exceeds 100 Cases which go on 14 Days in
in the upper month, discover themselves, viz. 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th.
The Liver is sometimes very much enlarged, and
just before Cases being associated with cholera
to swell the abdominal size. The 5th that it is
usually associated with related files the disease
is occasionally attended, I have had several
opportunities of examining, persons who have died
of Cholera Infantum, and have never found all
the abdominal viscera more or less inflamed, the
great intestines either mortified, or partly inflamed
and mortified. the mesenteric glands considerable
enlarged, and a number of hard stools
about the rectum.

67 July 1851.

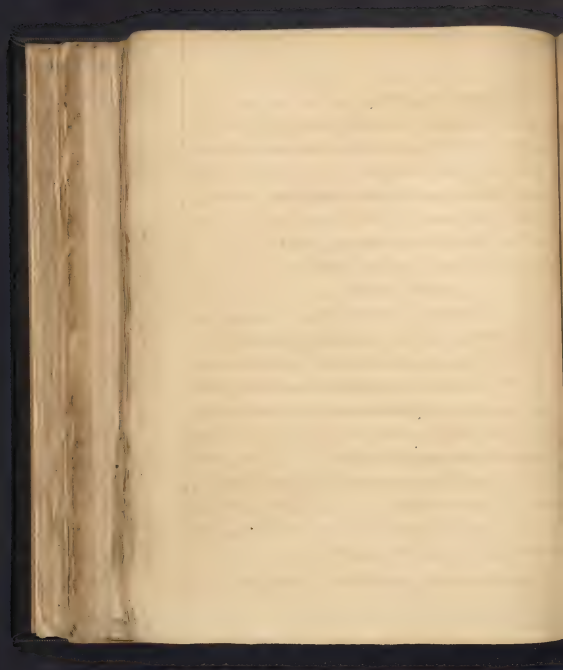
Almost all the diseases which infect the Abdomen
cannot do us some measure bear an analogy to Cholera
Infantum, & we can distinguish it from these with
facility. Thus we shall be able to do by inspecting the



the evacuations. It may be distinguished from the
Typhoid by the action of the bowels, by not being
attended with vomiting, and by the more
moderate heat. I shall not so far to mention the history
of the disease by which it may be distinguished from the other
fevers of a similar nature, as it would require
more time than I am disposed to allot. I shall
therefore proceed to speak of the

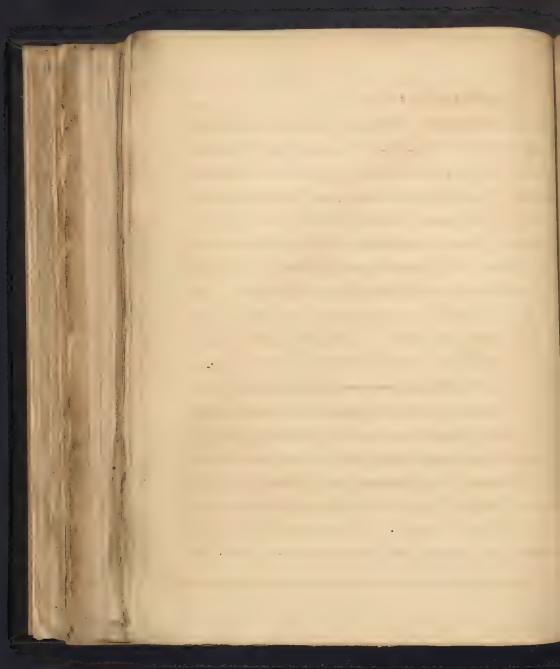
Prognosis

This may be favourable in all mild attacks and even in
more violent ones a hope may justly be indulged if we
observe the fever in a short time, but it not in some
cases. Cases however are liable to ensue. Hoarseness,
cough, as I have related several times, vomiting,
diarrhoea, or an acute prostration great tenderness
of the bowels, and considerable irritability of the stomach.
In small quick intermitting pulse, frequent tension
these are unfavourable and indicate great danger.
I never may be expected when the above mentioned
symptoms are not so violent.

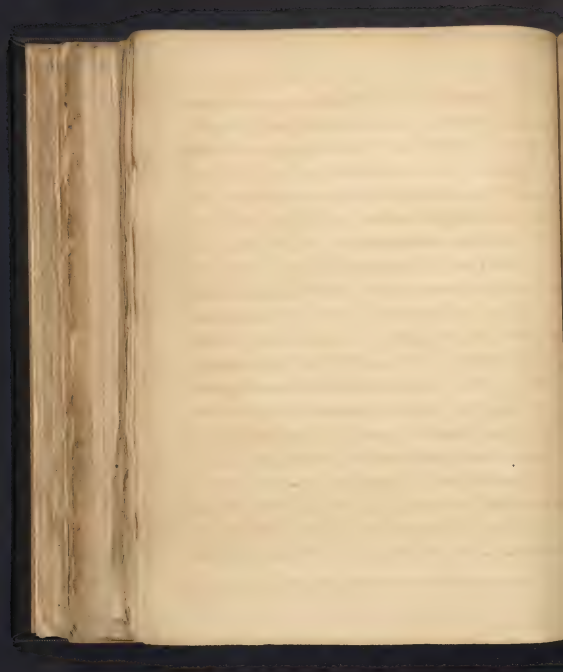


Methods of Cure.

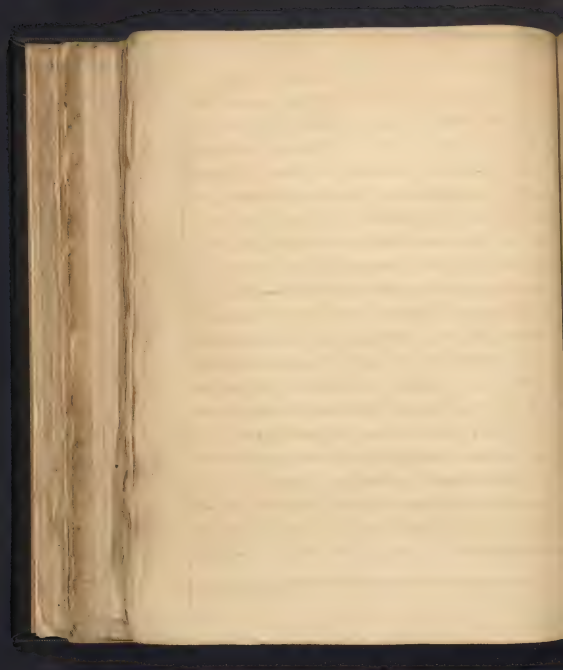
As to the treatment of Cholera Infantum, no little diversity of opinion has existed among our best men. Now this discordance of opinion both as to the cause can only be accounted for from the different modes of viewing the disease, the climate in which it exists & or from the peculiar situation in which patients are often landed. All these circumstances might determine or alter have had either laxative or antispasmodic for the patient. Thus in my opinion is one of the most usual reasons of such a multiplicity of sentiments concerning the true method, not only of cure, they are even the disease commonly mentioned. And this is the cause why that harmony of sentiment cannot exist among physicians as well as among other professional characters. It would be tedious for me therefore to mention all the Opinions which have been offered since the public as the result of some one sort of reasoning I shall venture merely to those which are in accord with my own. The first step towards the cure of



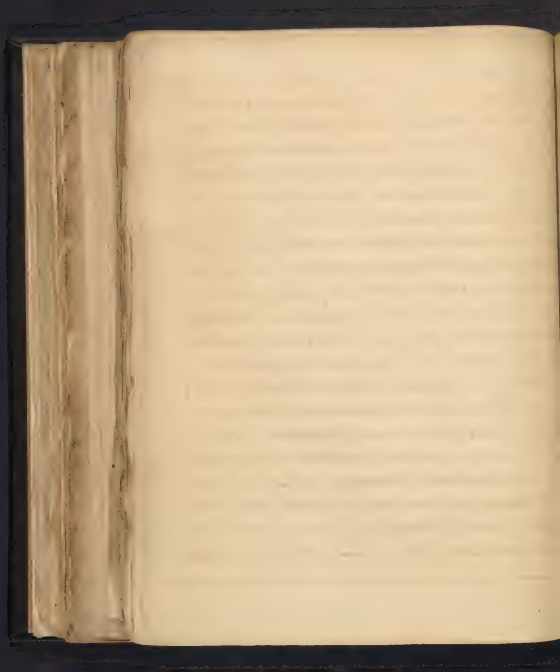
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If this troublesome disease depends on many circumstances
then in the first place the remedies to be used must be
in proportion to the violence of the disease and we should
not suspect it is of a violent nature in which the
disease exists the time of the year the strength of the
person &c. these will assist in making up our mind
relative to the best method of cure. If in the first place
there is much inflammation which is very generally the
case nothing is so well calculated to subdue it as venesection
but in many instances it commences with a disorder
of the Pleurisy & cannot in such cases recur
the treatment should be directed to its evacuation
but as regards the more common to be succeeded without
the surgery, there is by no means the same unanimity
of sentiment. Esculapine generally, is preferred for this purpose
as both in very mild cases this would answer very
well it passes readily through the intestines and
becomes little or no giving, the only difficulty is in
getting children to take it. The best way therefore of
giving it is in combination with a little sugar as the



in some measure, prevents the bettering of the Bil. But
is frequently met with cases attended with violent
vomiting! the patient complains of the medicine as base
as castilee. In such instances I have found the Anodyne
sufficient to induce extremely early evacuations of warm
Bile, applied to the epigastric region with water and
milk, and the Scutellary Mixture, have in fact, found ser-
vice. After this indication has been supplied, it
falls in which then resort to Cathartics. These are
most important medicines in the cure of Cholera
Intestinalis they are not only necessary to remove the con-
tent of the bowels speedily but are highly useful
in exciting an increased secretion from the mucous
membrane of the intestinal vessels. For this purpose
nothing has I ever known so safe as the medicinal
purge, in combination with Opium. These should be
given in small doses this acts very efficiently as a
purgative while at the same time the Opium induces
relaxation of the great muscular intestine, by the Opium
which enters into the compound. The purging should



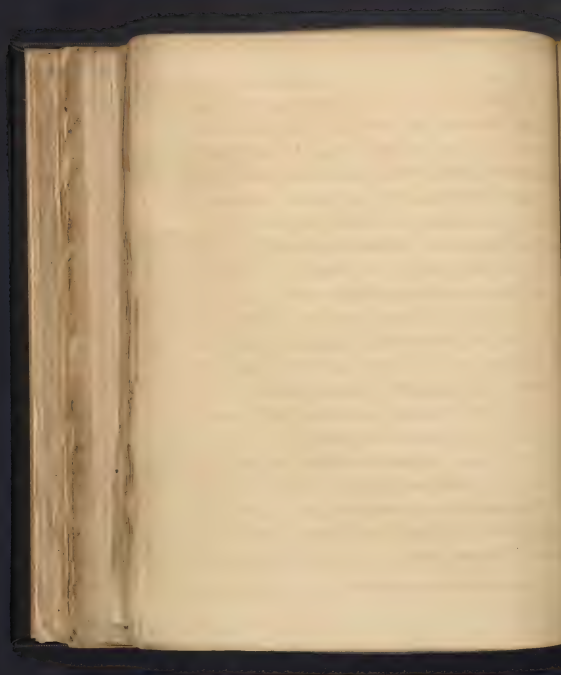
he continued for a while with some of
the Anusid Salts; what I have found to answer very
well is the Epson Salts. Rheubarb has been recom-
mended but, observing something of an asthenic
impotency practitioners have generally laid it aside.
It is important to continue the purging for some
time, where there are strong indications of bilious
accumulation. Every case of Cholera Infantum is
marked by great inequality of temperature while
one portion of the body is parching hot another
part is very cold, here nothing has I seen to answer so
well as the warm bath, in immersion we equalize the
temperature, and diffuse a glow over the whole surface.
It is highly necessary that this should be continued
very long as its effects are many & transient. Besides
there are very important in the case of this disease
they prove serviceable by causing a translocation of mor-
bid excitement from one part to some other much
attention must be paid to the grade of inflammation.
Some difference of opinion has existed as to whether



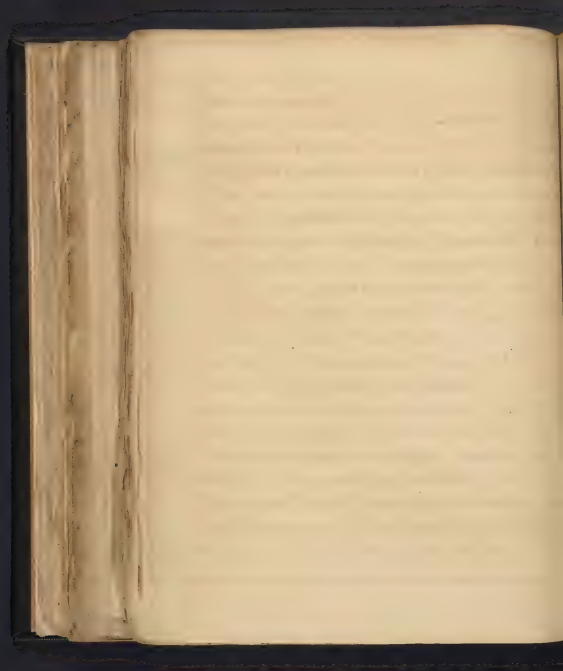
of the blister it is now generally considered that it should be large enough to cover the ul-dome, many practitioners prefer the extremes, for their ability to draw on account of the great inconvenience which the salient experienced are going to give. This however is the totally unnecessary and should therefore a large than the former limit. Much advantage is said to be derived from stimulating embrocations to the surface.

In the treatment of this disease authors differ but little in regard to its latter stages, and therefore there is but of little consequence to write. It has been proved, however, in the beginning, the patient is sensibly indebted to his recovery to the strength of his constitution, or to some extraordinary change that time, and not medicine, wrought in his habits.

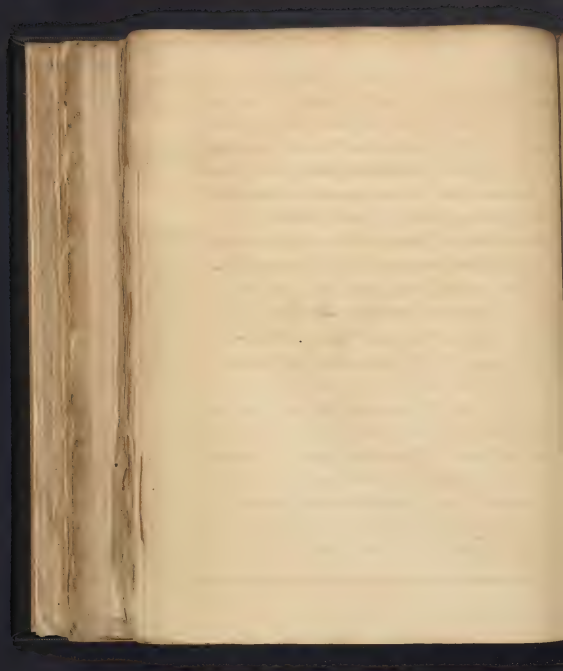
After a few days and even when the the disease has
 as into a L. carbida attended with some more vomiting
 and tenesmus, it is usual at this time, and late, to find the
 stomach greatly debilitated, with a lot of loss of the
 power of digestion, and in many cases non-digestion.



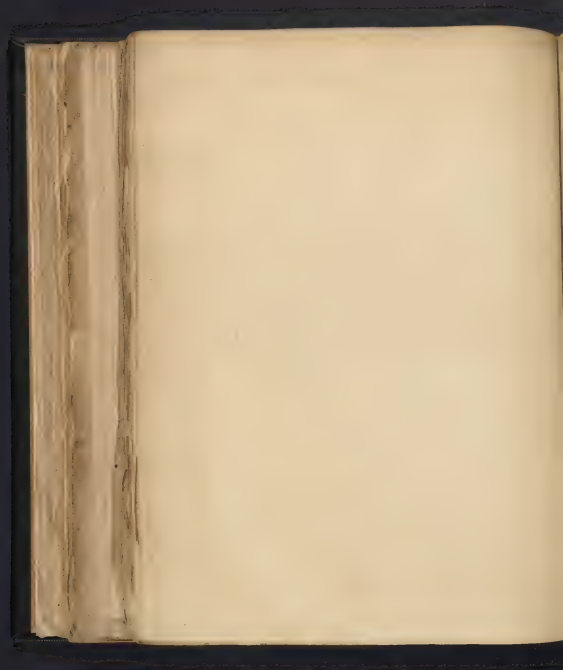
The remedies at this stage of the disease are the Allen
-big and Costaceous, with a little, the following
have been so answer extremely well R. Cirda⁹ preparata
℥j. Lactat⁹ p⁹ ℥ss. Saccharum Album ℥j. Aqua ℥ij. M.
the dose of this mixture ℥j every two or three hours the
alkalies may be used thus. R. Salts Natri⁹ ℥j. Laudanum
℥ss. XV. white Sugar ℥j. Water ℥ij. the dose of this mixture
a table spoonful every two or three hours. Rheubarb may
at this time be resorted to with considerable advantage
the following preparation is very much used this is accompa-
nyed adaph⁹ to the Compound R. Rheubarb X grains Balsam
Terebinth⁹ XXX grains Laudanum ℥ss. XV. Oil of Sassa-
fras ℥ss. Water ℥ij. M. the dose ℥j every two or three
hours these preparations are particularly calculated against
the Terminia, & Tensiones, which are apt to occur. Ememas
of melted butter applied at its entry I have seen
used with great advantage it is necessary that this
should be used pretty copiously. As the disease still
proceeds it loses more of its violent symptoms, and be-
comes a simple diarrhoea, here the mineral waters

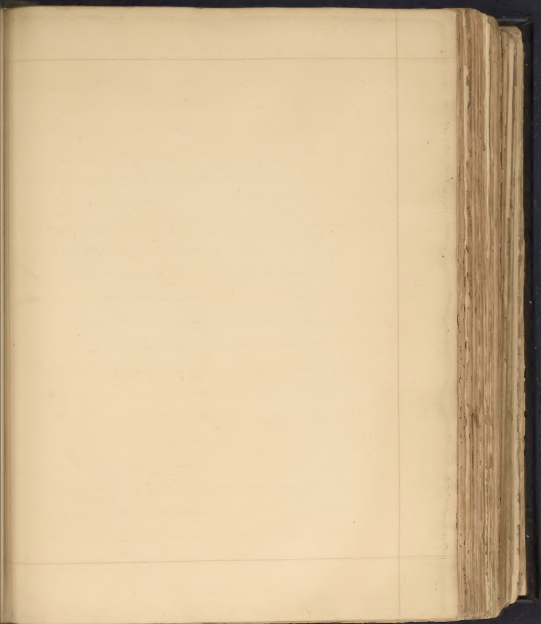


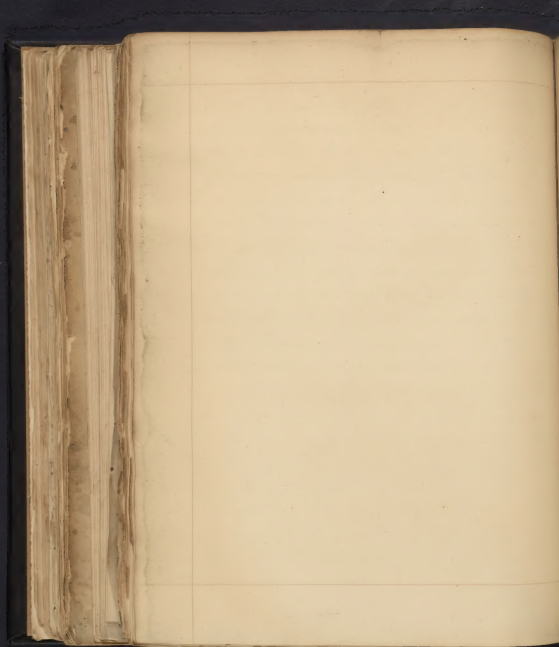
Come in with adonid. 20. among the best of them is
 Alum this is generally given in combination with little
 Opium two or three grains of Alum with an ounce
 of a grain of Opium. The Vegetable preparations have also
 been tried with much various success. Colic, it is
 thought to be useful in form of powder, but in some
 which I have seen to answer extremely well and in some
 Opium should be preferred to all the other the stomach
 when it is the common black vomit, this should
 be given in the form of decoction. It should be tried
 in vinegar and sweetened with loaf sugar, this has
 been used again and again with unsuccessful
 ability. — It remains for me to say a few words re-
 specting the proper regimen to the child vomiting
 in this disease. First it is no receipt for vomiting
 regimen, but in the inflammatory cases the patient
 should abstain from all substances of indigestible
 nature, such as wine, beer, &c. The diet should
 consist of the farinaceous preparations such as
 Rice, Symplicia, &c. — After all the above-mentioned



remedy; a change of climate is even so long as the
Child remains in the City and is exposed to the
operation of those causes which produce the disease,
we may palliate but hardly effected a permanent
cure. In such a case a Country residence is preferable.
It would advise as fatal in its occurrence, becomes
a high duty, for the accomplishing of which the follow-
ing rules are necessary. The Child should move in warm
under twelve months, where a predisposition exists to
"Infantile" with us should employ the Cold
bath. The Child should wear flannel. It is necessary
that the gums of the Child be scarified occasionally.







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